<u>In the claims</u>

1.　　(Currently Amended) A method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes <u>that involve account numbers stored for customers,</u> comprising:

<u>receiving service orders from the customers specifying one or more activities, wherein one or more of the service orders requires an account number change and wherein a billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor utilizes the account number being changed;</u>

<u>creating electronic service order entries within a service order computer system of a service provider based on the received service orders, wherein information is included within each electronic service order entry to indicate that the account number has changed for the customer when the service order results in the account number change;</u>

(a) flagging <u>the electronic service order</u> entries, in an update file, that correspond to electronic billing customers;

<u>storing the electronic service order entries in an update computer file;</u>

(b) searching the update <u>computer</u> file for flagged entries that <u>include the information that</u> indicate<u>s</u> an account <u>number</u> change;

<u>creating a new file that includes the flagged electronic service order entries that include the information that indicates an account number change that have been found by the search;</u>

(c) reformatting the flagged <u>electronic service order</u> entries <u>of the new file</u> that include the information that indicate<u>s</u> account <u>number</u> changes <u>to a record format compatible with the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor</u>; and

(d) transmitting the reformatted flagged entries <u>of the new file</u> that <u>include the information that</u> indicate<u>s</u> account <u>number</u> changes <u>over a computer network</u> to the <u>billing computer system of the</u> electronic billing vendor.

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2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein creating electronic service order entries comprises creating ~~the update file stores~~ one electronic service order entry for each activity of each service order ~~activity~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the electronic service order entries comprises ~~are placed~~ placing the electronic service order entries in the update computer file at an interval.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the update computer file comprises looking ~~looks~~ first for the flagged entries, and ~~looks~~ looking second for the account number changes among the flagged entries.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the update computer file comprises looking ~~looks~~ first for entries indicating account number changes, and ~~looks~~ looking second for the flagged entries among the entries indicating account number changes.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the record format includes data selected from the group consisting essentially of date of activity, customer contact information, old account number, new account number, and action.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the action is an activity selected from the group consisting essentially of delete, change, and activate.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the flagged electronic service order entries that indicate account number changes to the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor occurs through [[a]] the computer network using file transfer protocol.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving service orders from customers involves receiving a request for the account number changes that are selected from the group consisting essentially of an account termination and an account number change.

11. – 32. (Cancelled)

33.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
        receiving the new file with the reformatted electronic service order entries at the billing computer system of the electronic vendor;
        modifying customer records of the billing computer system according to the electronic service order entries including modifying the account numbers for customers; and
        generating electronic bills for the customers based on the modified account numbers.